## NATIONAL SPORTS SUMMIT

First-Ever National Event Addressing Pro-Athlete Substance Abuse

## Monday & Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

DELRAY BEACH, FL—**Transformations Drug & Alcohol Treatment Center** will hold the first-ever National Sports Summit, August 20-21 at the Hyatt Place in Delray Beach, Fl.—gathering addiction experts, former athletes, and clinical leaders from all major professional sports programs—to collaborate on cutting-edge solutions for retired and current athletes suffering from substance use disorder (SUD) and any co-occurring disorders.

"Working together, we can begin to collect techniques, data, and research on the most effective therapies, medications, and aftercare as they pertain to current and former professional athletes of any sport," states Randy Grimes, former 10-year Tampa Bay Buccaneer and national director of business development and strategy for Transformations Treatment Center, who spent 20 years battling addiction to pain medication. "In recovery, one size doesn't fit all; I formed this Summit so we can better serve every athlete with individualized care."

Organizations in attendance will be the Baseball Assistance Team (MLB), Player Care Foundation (NFL), Gridiron Greats (NFL organization led by Mike Ditka), After the Impact Fund (all sports and military veterans), and Gay Culverhouse Player Services (multiple sports). The sports represented at the Summit will include football, baseball, hockey, combat sports, tennis, extreme sports, rugby, and horse racing.

"We are gathering some of the best minds in the country who have been working with professional athletes to develop the nation's premier treatment programming for them," states Tim McDowell, Baseball Assistance Team (BAT). "It will be the first of its kind."

The Summit will feature sessions to highlight each organization's current programs—followed by Transformations' clinical staff presentations on addiction solutions offered in a holistic, highlyindividualized setting. "[The Summit represents] a coalition of talented service providers working to build upon and progress awareness/education, access, and treatment of substance abuse and cooccurring disorders among professional athletes," states Nate Recknagel, clinical manager for the NFL Player Care Foundation.

A working discussion will follow to close gaps and improve client care for those with addiction. "To succeed in all we do it is so important to collaborate and work with like-minded organizations and people who truly care about the communities we serve. By attending this Summit, we are hopeful to expand our knowledge, treatment resources and solidify relationships with all in attendance," states Shannon Jordan, executive director of Gridiron Greats and After The Impact Fund.

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**Transformations** 

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